

Heather *Calluna vulgaris* dominated grouse moor and grassy sheep pasture adjacent to the site. It is likely that the moth had travelled from one of these areas of acid vegetation to the trap, as it is associated with these habitats and not with calcareous fen elsewhere in Scotland. The mire is situated in a shallow basin at 270 metres above sea level between Chapelhill (313 metres) and The Steel (326 metres). Although the Northern Arches is thought of as an upland species there are no hills above 400 metres within several kilometres.

The weather on 26 July 2004 was mild and overcast. There was a good catch of 45 species of macrolepidoptera in the single trap. No immigrant species were recorded on that or the three previous nights, when traps were run elsewhere in Roxburghshire. It is probable that the species is breeding in the area, although further records would help to confirm this. It seems likely after this record, and last year's records in Dumfriesshire, that the Northern Arches may turn up in other sites in the Southern Uplands if more light trapping is carried out at moderate to high altitudes.

I would like to thank Bob Palmer for confirming the identity of the specimen and Keith Bland for discussing the idea for this Note.— JEFF WADDELL, Bonavista, Heatheryett, Galashiels, Selkirkshire TD1 2JL.

Ectropis bistortata (Goeze) and *Biston strataria* (Hufn.) in January

A fresh specimen of *Ectropis bistortata* was seen on an oak trunk in the local woodland at Bexley, Kent, on 7 January 2004, a good two months early, during a spell of mild weather. On 28 January 2002, a *Biston strataria* was seen at my garden my light at Dartford, during a very short spell of mild weather, about a month before its usual emergence period begins here in late February (rather than in March, as formerly). However, this will not have occurred in 2004 with its long spell of very cold weather lasting into March.— B. K. WEST, 56 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.

Langmaid's Yellow Underwing *Noctua janthina* (D.&S.) (Lep.: Noctuidae) on Guernsey: a tale of prophecy and hope

On 5 August 1997, David Agassiz, who was staying on the island, generously gave up a morning of his holiday to cycle to my house and go through my collection of microlepidoptera with me. Such was the scale of my misidentifications that he spent considerably longer on the task than he had anticipated, even missing his lunch, but for me it was a most stimulating morning, and two things in particular (apart from how little I knew about micros) have stuck in my memory. First, David brought with him a Pine-tree Lappet *Dendrolimus pini*, a large moth for a microlepidopterist, which he had found in his trap that morning and the first I had ever seen, and, second, he told me about *Noctua janthina* and how he felt it would eventually reach the Channel Islands and that I should keep a watch out for it. He explained how the hindwing differed from that of *Noctua janthe*, the Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing,

and so for the past seven seasons I have carefully lifted the forewing of every *janthe* I have seen, using an old bent setting needle kept specially for the purpose, and peered hopefully at the hindwing. On 16 July 2004, having examined 272 consecutive specimens, my first *janthe* of the season proved to be *janthina*. — P. D. M. COSTEN, La Broderie, La Claire Mare, St. Peters, Guernsey GY7 9QA (E-mail: pcosten@guernsey.net).

The Scarce Chocolate-tip *Clostera anachoreta* (D.& S.) (Lep.: Notodontidae) on Alderney

A female Scarce Chocolate-tip came to actinic light in a small garden in the centre of St. Anne on Alderney on the night of 14-15 May 2004. This is a species of moth new to Alderney, although known from Jersey where it has been recorded on several occasions (D.J. Wedd pers. comm.) and from the Cotentin peninsula, just nine miles away, where it is described as “rare: isolated individuals” (Quinette and Lepertel, 1992. *Les Macrolépidoptères du département de la Manche*).

A second specimen was taken by Graeme Neal, also at actinic light, on the night of 15-16 June 2004 in his garden which is about 250 metres from the site of the first capture. — P.D.M. COSTEN, La Broderie, La Claire Mare, St. Peters, Guernsey GY7 9QA. (E-mail: pcosten @guernsey.net)

The Splendid Brocade *Lacanobia splendens* (Hb.) (Lep.: Noctuidae) in Surrey in 2004

On 29 June 2004, I ran two traps at the Old Stores Meadows Reserve (my back garden) in Capel, Surrey (VC 17, O. S. grid reference TQ 176404). Amongst the 337 moths (of 99 species) captured was an unfamiliar species that I potted from a side wall on a check round at midnight. I retained the specimen alive in the fridge, and a week later was able to show it to two Surrey lepidopterists who did not recognise it, but thought that it might be an odd Bright-line Brown-eye *Lacanobia oleracea* (L.). To be fair to them, I did show it to them in rather poor light around a moth trap. On 15 July, I joined the Herts Moth Group trip to Broxbourne Wood, Hertfordshire and showed it to Colin Plant. Unfortunately, by this stage it had lost most of its scales and was in a rather sorry state. Nevertheless, Colin provisionally identified it as a male Splendid Brocade *L. splendens* (Hb.) – confirming this the next day after comparing it with European specimens in his collection.

The Splendid Brocade *Lacanobia splendens* was added to the British fauna by Tim Peet (2003. *Atropos*, No. 20: 64) who reported a capture on Guernsey, Channel Islands on 17 July 2003 and referred to examples having been taken at Portland [Dorset] and Dungeness [East Kent] on the mainland, though without details. Later, Martin Cade (2004. *Atropos*, No. 22: 42 – 43) provided a list of all nine known mainland British records, from eight localities, along with three from the Isles of Scilly and four from the Channel Islands, as follows: